

## Fraser slams indigenous policy fiasco

Author: Mark Metherell  
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GOVERNMENT attempts to "starve" indigenous people out of remote communities highlights the "significant regression" in indigenous policies under John Howard, the former prime minister Malcolm Fraser has said.

It will be a decade next month since the Bringing Them Home report chronicled the suffering of indigenous families through official removal of children.

But Mr Fraser said the failure to reverse indigenous disadvantage, poor health and lack of elected representation showed "there has really been a significant regression over the past 10 years". He joined the Aboriginal leader Lowitja O'Donoghue to call for a new commitment to the wholehearted implementation of the report.

Mr Fraser said Government attempts to move indigenous people from their communities into bigger towns to get jobs was the latest sign of the failure of the "practical reconciliation" policy.

"Just to starve out the remote localities ... that is not a policy. It is a prescription for more despair," he said.

Appointing the historian Keith Windschuttle to the ABC board was "like slapping every indigenous person in the face with a wet fish".